

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3038

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2194

LIMDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJ: PRESS STORY ON CIA ACTIVITIES

REF: COLOMBO 2173, STATE 160891

1. MDFA SECRETARY JAYASINGHE TELEPHONED JULY 11 TO NOTE THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE CONCERNED IF SOVIET NEW TIMES HAD, IN ITS STORY, FABRICATED STATEMENT THAT NEW YORK TIMES HAD SPECIFICALLY NAMED SWRD BANDARANAIKE AS TARGET OF CIA ASSASSINATION PLOT. JAYASINGHE IMPLIED THAT PRIME MINISTER MAY PLAN TO USE INFO WE HAVE SUPPLIED IN CONFRONTATION WITH LAKE HOUSE EDITORS. HE ASKED, HOWEVER, THAT WE TRY TO MAKE DOUBLY CERTAIN THAT BANDARANAIKE PLOT ALLEGATIONS HAVE NOT APPEARED IN NEW YORKTIMES CITING HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL EDITIONS OF TIMES, INCLUDING OUT-OF-TOWN EDITIONS.

2. FULL NEW TIMES STORY, WITH BYLINE OF IONA ANDRONOV, WAS SPLASHED ACROSS INSIDE OF SUNDAY OBSERVER JULY 7. FEATURE INCLUDED SECTION QUOTED IN COLOMBO 2112 AND PICTURES OF FIVE WORLD LEADERS WITH SWRD BANDARANAIKE ONE
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OF THEM (OTHERS WERE MAKARIOS, CASTRO, LUMUMBA, AND GADDAFI).

JULY 11 NEWS STORY IN CEYLON DAILY
NEWS COVERS CAMPAIGN SPEECH BY FORMER UNP YOUTH
LEADER, J. NIYATHAPALA (WHO IS SUPPORTING
CAMPAIGN AGAINST J.R. JAYEWARDENE IN COLOMBO
SOUTH BY-ELECTION), DURING WHICH NIYATHAPALA
REPORTEDLY REPEATED CHARGES OF CIA PLOT AGAINST
SWRD BANDARANAIKE AND ADDED NEW CHARGE OF CIA PLOT
AGAINST DUDLEY SENANAYAKE IN 1967.

3. IN RESPONSE TO JAYASINGHE'S REQUEST, WE SAID
THAT WE HAD REQUESTED DEPT TO CHECK ALL
EDITIONS OF NEW YORK TIMES AROUND MARCH 13.
HOWEVER, WE AGREED TO PASS ALONG HIS NEED TO
BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN OF HIS GROUND AND SAID WE
WOULD ASK THAT DEPT DOUBLE-CHECK ITS
FINDINGS.

4. BECAUSE OF SENSITIVE NATURE OF PROBLEM, WE
REQUEST THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO ASCERTAIN
THAT BANDARANAIKE ALLEGATION DID NOT APPEAR IN
NEW YORK TIMES. WHILE WE DO NOT WANT TO INHIBIT
THOROUGHNESS OF DOUBLE-CHECK, HOPE
WE CAN RECEIVE REPORT OF FINDINGS
BY JULY 14. REGARDING CLIPPINGS, BELIEVE
IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE COULD BE SENT THE
ENTIRE EDITION OF MARCH 13 NEW YORK TIMES AS WELL
AS CLIPPINGS OF ALL PREVIOUS STORIES ALLUDED TO
IN MARCH 13 STORY AS MENTIONED IN STATE 160891.
PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN CLIPPINGS AND NEWSPAPERS
ARE POUCHED.
VAN HOLLEN

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